

ROADS - BUNBURY

1253. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Given the recent election funding commitments by the federal Labor government to two major south west roads, when will the state government commence work on the Bunbury outer ring road and the Bunbury port access road?

Hon ADELE FARINA replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has provided the following answer. As indicated by the honourable member, federal Labor gave a commitment to allocate \$136 million towards construction of the Bunbury port access road and stage 1 of the Bunbury outer ring road. This was in stark contrast to the coalition government, which made no such commitment and had a long history of ignoring Western Australia's transport infrastructure needs. The election of the Rudd Labor government will mean that vital infrastructure projects such as these can now proceed. Construction of the Bunbury port access road is intended to commence in 2008-09. We will address timing of the Bunbury outer ring road stage 1 when we meet with the new federal government, which was sworn in only this week. We anticipate that the timing will be consistent with the election pledges. The cooperative federalism of the new Rudd Labor government is already starting to show benefits for all Western Australians by fairly supporting the huge potential of the state.